



Ineffable Twaddle

"It is my business to know what other people don't know."

The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars • Since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, USA



Volume 34 Issue 1
January, 2015

The Third Sherlock Seattle Convention is...

...January 9 to 11, 2015
Broadway Performance Hall,
1625 Broadway, Seattle!

Theme: *Curious Collections*
Guests of Honor are:

Tim Johnson, Curator of the
Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University
of Minnesota

Peggy Perdue, Curator of the *ACD Collection*
at the Toronto Public Library

The cost at the door is now \$55 for "basic
membership" (\$75 for VIP membership).



Members of The SOB's on the program are:

⇒ Playwright **John Longenbaugh**
⇒ **James Romnes** ⇒ **Lauren Messenger**
⇒ **VP Kashena Konecki** ⇒ **Airy Maher**

For further details, check the Con's website
or our social media!!

Con website: <http://www.sherlock-seattle.org/>

Facebook at: www.facebook.com/soundofthebaskervilles

Twitter at: twitter.com/seattlesherlock

Tumblr at: <http://thesoundofthbaskervilles.tumblr.com/>



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SOBs Roll Back the Prices!!!

Yes, we're rolling back our 2015/2016 RENEWAL DUES to 1980s prices!!

Our fiscal year runs April 1 through March 31. Any Member who renews for the 2015 / 2016 year may do so for \$15 for individual membership (\$20 for families). Dues payments are due during March 2015, with dues "past due" if not booked by Treasurer Hank Deck by April 30. Please send YOUR RENEWAL dues to Hank at: 1806—177th Street Court East, Spanaway, WA 98387

Thank you so much!!

New Member Dues will continue as outlined on Page 6 and at our website

Long-Term SOB Stu Shiffman Passes Away at 60

With great sadness, we write that both the Sherlockian and the sci-fi worlds lost a dear friend when **SOB Stu Shiffman** died on November 26, 2014.

We first met Stu when he and former SOB Thom Walls recruited volunteers to help at the 1994 Seattle BoucherCon. After a very successfully-run Con—the first opportunity for many SOB's to enjoy such an experience—Stu joined our Club in March 1995.

Stu was a native New Yorker, but moved to Seattle shortly before we met him, with his partner Andi Shechter. As his obituary explains (see <http://file770.com/?p=19827>), Stu was a sci-fi illustrator and writer of some renown prior to our meeting him. He quickly became a regular at SOB events and a fre-

quent contributor of news to this monthly and of essays and artwork to our *Beaten's Christmas Annual*. For years, PFL David commissioned Stu to draw an illustration—of which only 50 were printed and distributed at our yearly Masters' Dinners.

In June 2014, Stu and Andi decided to "tie the knot" and a number of SOB's were honoured to attend the traditional ceremony and reception. What a joyful experience!—See http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/2014/SOB_Stu_Shiffman_Weds.pdf

Stu will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



The Seattle
Public Library on
Queen Anne Hill
is at 400 West



Garfield, Seattle

*Library opens at 1:00, and closes
at 5:00. Come early, and catch up
with your fellow SOBs!*

Getting there:

From northbound or southbound I-5, exit at Mercer Street and head west. Turn right on Queen Anne Avenue and head up the hill. At the 3-way stop sign at the top, turn left onto West Galer Street. At 4th Avenue, turn right. The library is one (1) block north on the northwest corner, at the cross with Garfield Street

**Eateries Near the
Queen Anne Library:**

- **The 5 Spot**, 1502 Queen Anne Ave. North; serving regional American cuisine.



- **Hilltop Ale House**, 2129 Queen Anne Ave. North; serving decent pub fare.

- **Orrapin Thai Cuisine**,

10 Boston Street (the intersection of Queen Anne Ave. North and Boston);

- **The Paragon**, 2125 Queen Anne Ave. North; serving eclectic cuisine.

• **Olympia Pizza and Spaghetti**, 1500 Queen Anne Ave. North; serving excellent pizza with a Greek slant.



- **Betty**, 1507 Queen Anne Ave. North; serving Northwest cuisine.

• **Via Tribunali**, 317 West Galer Street (a block south of the Library); serving good (but pricey) pizza and Italian food.

**Thanks to
SOBs Jon Strandberg & Sue Reid
for this list!!!**

The Many Faces of Mr. Holmes & Dr. Watson

The January 18, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting of The Sound of the Baskervilles will begin at **1:30 p.m.** at The Seattle Public Library at 400 West Garfield, Seattle (Queen Anne Branch).

We will take a break from our regularly-scheduled study of The Canon to focus on a continuation of the discussion that **SOB Veep Kashena Konecki**, **SOB Airy Maher** and **SOB Lauren Messenger** began in their panel at the Third Sherlock Seattle Convention earlier in the month.

While their panel—"To Each Their Own: The Many Faces of Fandom"—went quite deeply into Sherlockian fan interests (e.g., collecting, mixed media, fanfiction and art), this time they'll narrow things down to "The Many Faces of Mr. Holmes & Dr. Watson (and why we love them)"!! This will be a participative discussion, so bring along your opinions!!

And, the Club will provide free refreshments!! So don't miss it!!



!!! February Meeting One Week Early (Feb. 8), First Ever South Sound Meeting is Feb. 15 !!!

Yes, our regular monthly meeting at the Queen Anne Public Library is moved forward one week to **February 8** (due to a scheduling conflict)!!

That gives us time to hold **our first-ever South Sound Meeting in Tacoma on Sunday, February 15**!! Watch for details in the next issue of *Twaddle*!!



**Have you solved it yet?
Have you even film it yet?
What are you waiting for??!**

SOB DC Smith has donated to the Club's Lending Library a complete DVD set of the much-praised **Soviet Sherlock Holmes TV series**.



Starring **Vasily Livanov** as Sherlock Holmes and **Vitaly Solomin** as Dr. Watson, the series has inspired DC's dark mystery—in the form of a fiendish trivia question.

THE CHALLENGE: In the series' first episode: "Acquaintance" (Disc one, "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson"), the set dressers prominently placed something—or some *things*—in 221B that not only *do not* belong there but are strongly tied *not* to the USSR, but to the USA. **Can you observe what you see? Can you correctly identify it/them?**

A suitably splendid prize is being offered to the first SOB to correctly solve the mystery.

Month #3

So, borrow the SOBs' copy of this DVD set, or check your local library or Scarecrow Video on Roosevelt in Seattle.

Haugens hosted a viewing party for 8 SOBs on December 28. **We think we divined a correct answer.** But mum's the word, as a couple of folks attending may submit their answers to DC Smith!! **Don't be left out of the fun!!!**

THE RULES:

☆ Entries must be clearly written BOTH locating or naming AND correctly identifying the object (or objects) in question.

☆ Place your answer in a sealed envelope, with your name clearly printed on the outside.

☆ Submit your answer to DC or Club Librarian Sheila at an upcoming meeting or mail it to: DC Smith, P.O. Box 99294, Seattle, 98139-0294. The date of receipt (post-mark date for those mailed) will be noted. At the end of the contest, the first complete correct answer will be the winner.

☆ Entries must be received **at or before the April 19, 2015** SOB meeting. The winner will be announced in the May issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*.

Every SOB is eligible, so give it a go!!!



Lippincott's Legacy, Omaha, 2015!!

News from: SOB Carl Wirth, Omaha, NE

Editor's Note: Carl T. Wirth has been a Member of our little scion since March 2011. He "keeps the memory green" in Omaha, NE—*basically a one-man Sherlockian recruiter*—with his Saturday "Bookworm" Sherlockian discussion group at a local bookstore.

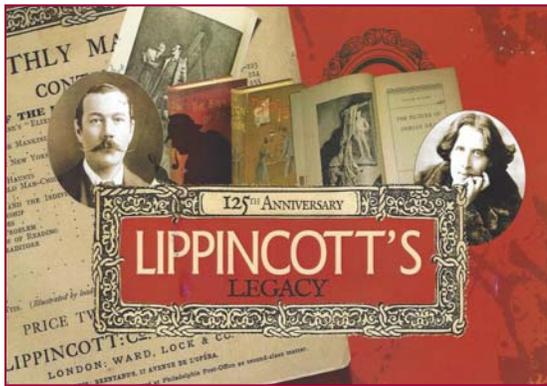
He draws folks from all age groups and walks of life, including one Robert E. Bernier, PhD, assistant dean at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Carl was able to rekindle Bob's interest in Sherlock Holmes, which has resulted in the upcoming *Lippincott* conference!!

Here are the details:

LIPPINCOTT'S LEGACY

A literary conference celebrating the 125th anniversary of the publication of "*The Sign of the Four*" by Arthur Conan Doyle and "*The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Oscar Wilde.

CALL FOR PAPERS
Papers are invited



on these two important novels published in 1890 by *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*, on the authors, on comparisons in literary publishing in the late 19th and early 21st centuries, and on related matters.

(Competitive papers accepted for the Conference will be published in the Lippincott's Legacy Proceedings. The publication will be designed to recreate an issue of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine as it appeared in 1890.)

SAVE THE DATE

May 29 to 31, 2015
Hilton Hotel, Omaha, NE

FOR MORE INFO ON THE CONFERENCE AND THE CALL FOR PAPERS:

www.lippincottslegacy.org.

FOR MORE ABOUT OMAHA:

www.visitomaha.com

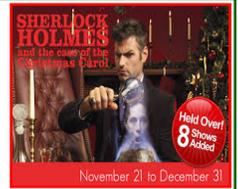
FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Resweb.pass
key.com/go/
lippincottslegacy

QUESTIONS?

Call Robert Bernier at (402) 554-2521 or email lippincott@unomaha.edu

From SOB John Longenbaugh



I made it up for the Canadian premiere of my play—"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol"—in November in Chemainus, B.C. (near Victoria). It was pretty darn great. Opening night got a standing ovation and they added 8 more shows. I heard through the grapevine that The Stormy Petrels were planning an outing at some point; I'd love to hear what they thought of it.

Martin Freeman hosts Saturday Night Live in early December

Source:
Entertainment Weekly
2015 Special
Movie edition



Our 32nd Masters' Dinner is Saturday, March 7!!

We gave up last year on holding a Master's Dinner in January, celebrating the anniversary of Holmes' birth in January 1854. Instead, our Masters' Dinner now celebrates the occasion of our Masters' (Holmes' and Watson's) meeting in March 1881.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.** for our 32nd Masters' Dinner once again at Angelo's Italian Restaurant in downtown Burien.

Our buffet choices for your eating pleasure will include chicken, pasta and vegetarian offerings (cost to be determined). *(Alcoholic beverages will be available on a pay-as-you-go basis.)* But, the Club will foot the bill for appetizers, vino and dessert!!

Toasts to the pair at this event will be most welcome.

Like all SOB weekend events, this is a perfect occasion for socializing in a relaxed atmosphere, to get to know your fellow Sherlockians even better!! Angelo's has wonderful ambiance, ample free parking and great food, so please be sure to join us!

Driving directions, meal cost and a registration form will be provided in the next issue of Twaddle.

In the meantime, here are some of the smiling faces from our 2014 Masters' Dinner!



A Few Words from Our Veep Kashena Konecki

☞ I'm watching a bunch of Sherlock Holmes TV, movies, etc., in preparation for **Sherlock Seattle Con** (which you all should attend; we will have a promo table and several SOBs are on panels! You do not want to miss this!!) The Wikipedia article for the particular film I'm watching has the sentence, "In Whitechapel, a young man is savaged by a dinosaur." A dinosaur!? I'd say that's new but I've also seen "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" and that features the Lock Ness monster, so...

☞ Check out our Facebook page for a link to the Seattle Times' **review of Anthony Horowitz's book, "Moriarty"**.

☞ There is a **new web video series you can back on Kickstarter**: a female Sherlock, a transgender woman called Watson and a sister named Myra Croft Holmes. Go to: <http://www.themarysue.com/feminist-sherlock-webseries-kickstarter/> to view it. My favorite part is when Watson is talking on the phone with Myra while Sherlock is shooting in the background and yells, "I need a bigger gun!!"

☞ There is to be a **new play about Sherlock Holmes hitting Broadway** in 2017. Get the details at: <http://www.newser.com/article/cc572cb3ef264e57ba874a6902b3d988/new-play-about-sherlock-holmes-plans-to-hit-broadway-in-2017-penned-by-british-writing-duo.html>.

Romnes Bags a Caribou!!

SOB James Romnes (aka Inspector Rance) has been a-hunting!!



Things to See, Buy, Do and Know

• **From SOB Charlie Cook**: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famed detective returns to **Broadway in a new epic play**" was the headline that caught my eye at http://www.theatermania.com/new-york-city-theater/news/sherlock-holmes-plans-for-2017-broadway-run_71052.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=25dec2014. Not many details yet, but they do say, "Staged as a mystery within a mystery, the original story explores the mind of the famous detective while remaining faithful to the world originally created..."

• **From SOB Maffie Rafferty**: To view a video about the new Museum of London's Sherlockian exhibit, go to: <http://www.nbcnews.com/watch/nbc-news/an-elementary-guide-to-sherlock-holmes-enduring-appeal-378614851930>. In it, reporter Alex Werner offers an insider's guide to the exhibition, which examines "the illustrious history of one of the world's most celebrated detectives".

• **From District Messenger Editor Roger Johnson**: "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" exhibit at the Museum of London runs until 12 April 2015. "Through early film, photography, paintings and original artefacts, the exhibit recreates the atmosphere of Sherlock's London, with visitors able to envisage the places that the detective visited and imagine they are standing on the pavement of the Strand watching the horse drawn traffic pass by."

• **Heard at our December Meeting**: Issue #15 of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine will / does feature an article by SOB John Longenbaugh regarding Sherlock Holmes on the radio!!

• **From SOB Airy Maher**: You can still catch Benedict Cumberbatch's "Cabin Pressure" series on BBC4 Radio. Check out: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00lmcxj>

• **For our Gamers**: Our friends up north—The Wisteria Lodgers of Edmonton, AL—mention an item on their Facebook page. Go to: www.sherlockian-sherlock.com to



download a free copy of "The Blue Carbuncle" board game, featuring visuals of Jeremy Brett from the Granada series—a family dice game for 2 to 8 players!

• **From SOB Webmaster Stu Nelan**: The Crew of the Barque Lone Star lost their webmaster when he moved to Boston! Nobody here had access to it. So Rusty Mason, President Steve's son, started off from scratch and has set up a really nice Sherlockian website. Check it out at: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>. He has added a bunch of interesting links and info. And he has no website experience—but lots of enthusiasm and time!

• **From SOB Board Member Emeritus Al Nelson**: Stopped at this shop recently; they had everything you can imagine and lots to tempt you!!



• **From SOB DC Smith**: Here's something pretty cool that I've never seen before...(and, yes, that IS a penny on the shelf) **Get it at: www.karennymanninturebooks.com/store/products/chronicles-of-sherlock-holmes-series/**



PFL DAVID OFFERED A DRAWING IN NOVEMBER

OPEN ONLY TO SOBs LIVING OUTSIDE THE SEATTLE-TACOMA AREA.

A dozen SOBs entered—strangely, choosing only two (2) of the three items being offered! Names were put in Margie's bowler hat at the December Meeting, and the winners are...

For the photo of Cumberbatch & Freeman signed by them both:

SOB Charlie Cook of Sumter, SC



For the photo of Rathbone & Bruce, with a photoprint of Rathbone's signature:
Don Mathews of Elk City, ID

Fetherston has First in New BSI Biography Series!!

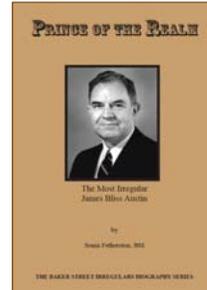
News from:

SOB Sonia Fetherston, BSI, Salem, OR

Editor's Note: Sonia Fetherston is a Morley / Montgomery Award-winning author, recipient of the BSI's "Eddie" Award for writing excellence, a Sherlockian of nearly three decades' standing, and a Member of the BSI herself ("The Solitary Cyclist"). "Most important," says Sonia, "is my proud membership in *The SOBs*. Home base, as you know, is Oregon...though I'm very happy to be Washington-born."

I've completed a brand new biography about long-time Baker Street Irregular Bliss Austin, and the BSI has just published it. It's the first volume in the group's new biography series. The book will debut January 10, during BSI weekend in New York. Copies may be ordered after January 10 via the BSI's book link at www.bakerstreetjournal.com. Entitled "Prince of the Realm: The Most Irregular James Bliss Austin", it recalls a man who: ⇒ was a member of the very first class of investitured Irregulars;

- ⇒ solved the mystery of poet (and alleged spy) Helene Yuhasova;
- ⇒ acquired what's still reckoned to be the finest collection of Sherlockiana....then gave it all away;
- ⇒ painstakingly reassembled the fragmented "Valley of Fear" manuscript;
- ⇒ stood up to Isaac Asimov during one famous, and contentious, BSI dinner;
- ⇒ was his era's grandest master of the art of "playing The Game".



The book contains never-before-published letters, anecdotes, interviews with friends and family, personal photos, and more. Also, for the first time, it delves into Bliss Austin's other hobby: conserving ancient Japanese art—a field in which he was acclaimed an expert by many eminent art historians. Pretty good for a quiet, self-effacing chemical engineer from Pittsburgh!



Holiday Greetings to The SOBs

Compliments of the Season came to the SOBs from SOBs...

- Frank Bork, of Lancaster, NY (with his annual hand-made card, featuring his first-hand photos of London's skyline and SH Museum)
- Nola & Daniel Cheff
- Charlie & Diana Cook, of Sumter, SC
- Club Treasurer Hank & Margie Deck (hand-made)
- Club Librarian Sheila Holtgrieve
- Geoff Jeffery & Cara Cross
- Club VP Kashena Konecki
- Dawn Kravagna
- Jean Macdonald
- Bill & Cindy Mason, of Green Brier, TN
- Don Mathews (writing from sunny Texas, where he was visiting his daughter & family)
- Pat & Jim McIntosh (writing that they are active in the public transport efforts of "All Aboard Washington")
- Jim & Ann Nagle
- Paul & Marcia Naher, of Kansas City, MO
- Club Webmaster Stu & Pat Nelan, of

- Melissa, TX (with a London Society card featuring a Gillette lobby card)
- Barbara Nelson (who hopes to attend our January Meeting!)
- Margaret & Al Nelson
- Dottie Normandin, of North Grafton, MA (with her hand-made card, featuring her first-hand photo of London's SH Restaurant)
- Michael Phillips & Walter Choy (with a card featuring a Sherlockian-appropriate magnifying glass)
- Manson & Nancy Polley
- Maffie & David Rafferty
- James, Ginie, Bryan & Emily Romnes
- Bill Seil
- DC Smith (exhausted from his Seattle Seafair Pirates' "Santa" duties)
- Lauran Stevens (hand-made)

...and from Friends of the SOBs...

- Fran Martin, President, The Stormy Petrels of BC
- Steve Mason, President, The Crew of the Barque Lone Star of Dallas, TX
- Kate Nelson & Andrew Canino
- Thom Walls



From Editor Terri:
For our Cumberbabses!!

Heard about Cumberbatch's appearance on Time Magazine's cover for December 1, 2014 and had to see it myself. Googled "cumberbatch time magazine cover" and found a video of his photo sitting at: <http://time.com/3597674/go-behind-times-benedict-cumberbatch-cover-with-photographer-dan-winters/>

Then I moved to the right on my toolbar to "Images" and found views of just about every magazine cover appearance he's ever made and then some!!!!



Lots of fun viewing!!

Getting only 3 responses to our Meeting Location Survey—that appeared twice in *Twaddle* (issues 11 & 12, 2014)—we sent an e-mail blast out in November. Seventeen responses resulted, BUT...We still don't have a new restaurant location identified, nor is there a clear majority for making a change in our current day, time and venue! So, we will continue to hold our Regular Monthly Meetings at the Queen Anne Public Library—at least through August, 2015!!

Messenger's
Blue
Carbuncles!

Here is a photo by VP Kashena of SOB Lauren Messenger's "Blue Carbuncle" cookies, taken at our December Meeting!!! They were a yummy, spicy cookie with melted Jolly Roger candies to create the carbuncle!!





The Sound
of the
Baskervilles

By appointment
of Her Majesty,
Queen Victoria

Ineffable Twaddle

A monthly publication of
The Sound of the Baskervilles
A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since March 31, 1980
Serving the Greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington

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The Sound of the Baskervilles
... is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, serving the greater Puget Sound Region of Western Washington, U.S.A., and has met monthly since March 31, 1980.
\$20 per year brings Members the monthly newsletter "Ineffable Twaddle", a copy of Beaten's Christmas Annual, and the incalculable benefits of association with a group of certifiable Holmes aficionados.
Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Location of the meetings may vary.
Regularly scheduled additional events throughout the year include: "The Masters' Dinner" celebrating the meeting of Holmes and Watson (March), "The Annual Wreath Throw" commemorating Holmes' loss at Reichenbach Falls (May), "The Dr. John H. Watson Picnic" (July), and "The Will Crakes Memorial Jollification" (December).
Other activities—book crawls, teas, plays and gaming events—are as announced.
To join, send your check for dues—\$20 for individuals, \$30 for families (U.S. funds only)—to the address shown at left.



Dates of Interest

● FRIDAY TO SUNDAY

January 9 to 11

The Third Sherlock Seattle Convention
See Page 1

● SUNDAY, January 18

Regular Monthly Meeting, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Queen Anne Library, 400 West Garfield, Seattle

● SUNDAY, February 8

Regular Monthly Meeting, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Queen Anne Library, 400 West Garfield, Seattle

● SUNDAY, February 15

First South Sound SOB Meeting in Tacoma

Member News & Updates

SOBs attending our December 21, 2014 Meeting, presided over by **PFL David Haugen** were:

Lauren Messenger	Airy Maher	Terri Haugen
Sheila Holtgrieve	Margie Deck	Hank Deck
Jon Strandberg	Sue Reid	Al Nelson
Margaret Nelson	Lauran Stevens	Larry Raisch
Shannon Wallace	Kashena Konecki	

● Our guest was **Katherine Rudebusch**, back after attending our October Meeting; we hope to convince her to join soon! ☆ **PFL David** discussed options, then gained the group's approval for the Club to donate \$100 to Harborview Hospital's Mission of Caring Fund, on behalf of former **SOB Stu Shiffman** (see Page 1) ☆ Our **cookie exchange** was so abundant that two 6' tables were covered with edible options! Many of the goodies were consumed right there; others were happily packed up and taken home! Thanks to **ALL** who contributed!! Kudos for "the most inventive" to **Lauren M** for her "Blue Carbuncle cookie"; for the "most elaborate", to **Sue** for her "traditional trifle"; for "the most generous", to **Hank** for his cookie-filled gift bags for everyone! ☆ **Margie's** "Blue Carbuncle Bingo" was a hoot!

At right, VP Kashena's photo of the group at the December Meeting (missing are Hank & Margie and Editor Terri, who took the shot with K's cell)

She was quite the trooper too, as after leaving, she headed to urgent care for a new antibiotic; she's now doing better! ☆ The bingo competition was fierce!! The first place winners were **Airy** and **Kashena** who got "bingos" in the first round; the 3rd, 4th and 5th to place were **Shannon**, **Lauran S.** and **Lauren M.** Alas, prizes of Starbucks gift cards went only to the first 4 to place!

● Haugens hosted a **viewing of the Russian TV Holmes** in December; eight SOBs viewed the first episode twice and believe they came up with the correct answer! Don't be left out; get your entry in soon!!

● **SOB Airy Maher** took 2nd place in The Watson Society weekly quiz for week 47. There were no takers for the week 49 quiz (Yikes!!) So, **SOB Margie Deck** decided to stump their members again with a 2-week quiz of her own. Said the JWS website on December 19: *This week's quiz is Pawky Puzzler's Christmas Quiz for your Yuletide enjoyment and delectation. We thank Margie Deck, our intrepid Quiz Maven from The SOBs in Seattle for her fine work in creating this unique and fun quiz. Go to http://www.johnwatsonsociety.com/quiz_page.html for weekly updates!* 🍷

